

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-4, 7, 8, and 14-15. Claim 5, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 14 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, Claim 5 has been cancelled. In addition, claim 6 has been cancelled, and claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in claim 5 as well. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

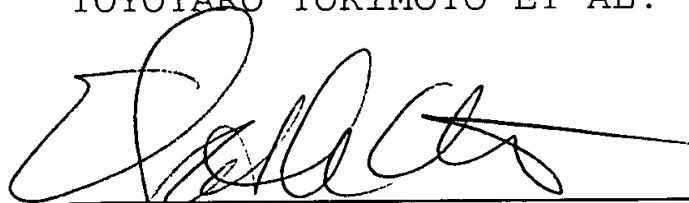
Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Tokimoto et al.* EP 0 869 468, and claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tokimoto et al.* in view of *Chiang U.S. Patent No. 6,198,467*. The Examiner has also indicated, however, that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicants have amended claim 14 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5 and have cancelled claim 5. In addition, Applicants have cancelled

claim 6 and have amended claim 15 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and 15 as amended and claims 2-4, and 7-8 which depend on claim 14 as amended are in condition of allowance. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of claims 14 and 15 prior to this amendment herein in a continuation application.

In summary, claims 14 and 15 have been amended and claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

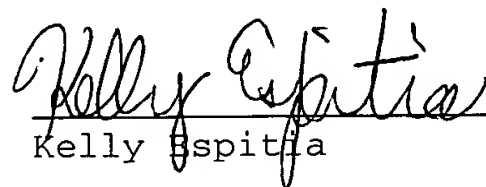
Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 6, 2006.


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